

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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June 22, 2004

FROM: DR. KEITH GORDON, Interim Director
Department of Behavioral Health

**SUBJECT: CONTRACT WITH HI-DESERT MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC. DBA OASIS
COUNSELING CENTERS FOR RECOVERY RESOURCE CENTER**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Contract with Hi-Desert Mental Health Center, Inc. dba Oasis Counseling Centers in the amount of \$558,149 for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007 to provide a Recovery Resource Center for homeless, seriously mentally ill adults.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Approval of this item will allow the County to provide Recovery Resource Center (RRC) services which include but are not limited to: restrooms, showers, clothing laundry facilities, telephones, message retrieval, mail pick-up, toiletries, meeting locations for support groups, refreshments, haircuts, job search, housing and transportation leads, and locked storage for personal needs. The RRC will be based in a centrally located area in San Bernardino and provide comprehensive mental health services to reduce the risk of homelessness, incarceration, and/or hospitalization among seriously mentally ill adults. Staffing will be provided by the RRC.

Assembly Bill 2034 (AB 2034) was passed in 2000 in response to the rising numbers of homeless mentally ill. It addresses the need to provide resources such as shelter, access to food, information, mental health services and support to help this population recover and function again in the community. AB 2034 provides funding to counties to develop and maintain these services for those who are seriously mentally ill and homeless or at risk of homelessness, incarceration, or hospitalization.

Seriously mentally ill adults are adults who are diagnosed as having a major mental disorder (e.g., schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression) whose symptoms prevent them from functioning safely and effectively in the community. In 2000, the State funded three (3) pilot programs through the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to serve homeless, seriously mentally ill adults in San Bernardino County. The pilot programs were:

- 1) A Recovery Resource Center (RRC), which served as a safe place for homeless, seriously mentally ill adults;
- 2) An Outreach Team, also known as the Personal Services Coordination (PSC) Team, which provided referrals, mental health screening and assessment, and coordination of services; and
- 3) An emergency housing program that included emergency shelter, transitional housing, an independent living program, and dual diagnosis recovery housing. (Dual diagnosis refers to a diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse.)

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As a result of the effectiveness of these pilot programs, DBH continues to offer the services.

On February 10, 2004, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Department of Behavioral Health to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Recovery Resource Center to reduce the risk of homelessness, incarceration, and/or hospitalization for seriously mentally ill adults in San Bernardino County. The RFP was posted to the County's internet site, advertised in local newspapers and direct mailings. Three agencies submitted proposals as follows:

Agency	Proposed Amount		
	FY 04-05	FY 05-06	FY 06-07
Hi-Desert Mental Health Center dba Oasis Counseling Centers	\$178,395	\$185,930	\$193,824
Mental Health Systems, Inc	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$195,000
L'Espere Behavioral Health Center, Inc.	\$195,000	\$195,000	\$195,000

All proposals were ranked by an evaluation team that consisted of representatives from DBH, the Mental Health Commission, Human Services System (HSS) Auditing, and the Department of Public Health. The evaluation criteria included, cost of service, location, experience, and ability to meet program services criteria listed in the RFP. Based on the criteria, the evaluation team recommended that Hi Desert Mental Health Center, Inc. dba Oasis Counseling Centers be recommended for the Contract as they best met the needs of the County and overall were the lowest cost.

The agencies not selected were notified by mail that a protest could be filed by May 14, 2004. No protest was received.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by HSS Contracts (Lori Ciabattini, Administrative Supervisor, (909) 388-0253) on June 2, 2004; the Office of County Counsel (Charles Larkin, Deputy County Counsel, (909) 387-4177) on June 7, 2004; and the County Administrative Office (Bea Valdez, Administrative Analyst, (909) 388-0211) on June 9, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Approval of this item will provide for a Recovery Resource Center, for the homeless, seriously mentally ill adults in San Bernardino County, in the amount of \$558,149 for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007. Funding for this contract is through AB 2034 funds and is included in the Department's proposed FY04/05 Budget (\$178,395) and will be included in the Department's proposed budgets for FY 05/06 (\$185,930) and 06/07 (\$193,824). There is no local cost to the County.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the department's proposal and recommends this action because it will impose no local cost to the County and will result in needed services for the homeless, seriously mentally ill population.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: Carol Hughes, Assistant Director, Department of Behavioral Health (909) 387-7022